

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Sask PRAC workshop

-start: 8:35am; end: approx. 3:55pm

Present (at start of event): George Tomporowski (Mayor, Town of Shellbrook), Virginia Wittrock (Saskatchewan Research Council), Kim Graybiel (Saskatchewan Environment), Terry Duguid, Frank Reid (Saskatchewan Government Relations, Infrastructure), Steven Dribnenki (SUMA), Paul Hillsdon (Saskatchewan Government Relations, Community Planning), Douglas Ross (Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure), Ryan Cossitt (Saskatchewan Government Relations, Disaster Mitigation), Andrew Liu (Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure, Director of Transportation Infrastructure), Gordon Sparks (VEMAX Management Inc.), Andy Cook (Saskatchewan Environment), David Sloan (Chair, Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds), Fred Clipsham (Director-at-Large, Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds), Anna Krutova (Saskatchewan Economy), Mike Balfour (Saskatchewan Economy), Harpreet Panesar (Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure), Devin Causley by phone (Canadian Federation of Municipalities), and Anne Seguin (Saskatchewan Environment).

1. Canadian Local and Provincial Governments' Responses to Climate Change
(Devin Causley, Manager, Climate Change Programs, Federation of Canadian Municipalities)
via conference call

- Approx. 9:00-9:32 am
- Devin kept breaking up on the phone – hard to hear what he was trying to say.
- Fred Clipsham – said Regina just finished PCP step #5
- FCM just wants to get the funding out as easily as possible – that's why FCM isn't requiring an adaptation lens
 - “where the practical meets the political”

2. Managing Climate Risks to the Energy Sector in the Souris River Watershed in Saskatchewan & Manitoba (Virginia Wittrock, Saskatchewan Research Council)

- Approx. 9:45 – 10:00 am
- Mike Balfour:
 - SaskPower's Shand power station uses air cooling, not water cooling. This is an adaptation measure although when built in the late 1980s it wasn't intended as a cc adaptation but instead was a response to the drought at the time (1980s).

3. Engaging Stakeholders to Identify Adaptation Priorities in the Souris River Watershed (Jo-ellen Parry, International Institute for Sustainable Development)

- Approx. 10:10am – 10:18am
- Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure wants to know how they can justify upgrading the infrastructure in the Souris watershed.
 - H&I is hoping this study will provide the economic info that will answer his questions.
 - What are the costs of not upgrading?
 - What are the savings from upgrading?

- -Virginia and Jo-Ellen: This might be captured qualitatively in the interviews.
- Kim Graybiel: The oil and gas companies are reluctant to provide their economic information due to the competitive nature of the industry.
- Gordon: Because of the fluctuating price of oil, some wells are shut in so without being able to predict this you can't predict how long the road will be used and, therefore, you can't tell if upgrading the infrastructure is worth the cost.
- Mike Balfour: The oil industry isn't homogeneous because there's both heavy oil and lighter oil (e.g., the Bakken).
- Gordon: Also need to think about bridges in rural areas. Do they all need to be upgraded? An integrated approach is needed.
- Ryan Cossitt: No adaptation screen is used when evaluating applications for funding that's distributed by his shop.
- Gordon: Other jurisdictions around the world have guidelines and standards on asset management. ISO 55000 (an international standard for asset management) provides helpful high level guidance, e.g., defining terms.

--Break--

4. Climate Change Impacts to the Oil and Gas Sector in Saskatchewan and Western Canada – How Are We Preparing? (Al Wiensczyk, Trout Creek Collaborative Solutions) *via conference call*

- Approx: 11:02-11:30 am
- Had 28(?) survey questions and 9 questions on demographics
- Focus groups or workshops were felt to be more effective in engaging people and eliciting information from them than was an on-line survey because often respondents felt they needed to consult with their colleagues before formulating a response.
- No information on what specific government policies are perceived to be barriers to adaptation planning
- SK wasn't perceived to have government policies that are barriers to cc adaptation.
- Had only a 15 per cent response rate to the survey.
- He didn't provide any examples of climate change adaptation to respondents and as possibly not all respondents knew what "adaptation" meant, that may have affected responses providing to the survey.
- The survey was done in March 2014; therefore, low oil prices were not an issue at that time.

6. Saskatchewan Experience Addressing Climate Risks in Asset Management Planning (Gordon Sparks, VEMAX Management Inc.)

- Approx. 11:45am – 12:10pm.
- AMP = asset management plan
- We don't need to rediscover the wheel.
- Need to work at the grassroots level.

--Lunch--

7. Reducing the Vulnerability of Municipal Infrastructure to Extreme Weather Events (George Tomporowski, Mayor, Town of Shellbrook)

- Steven from SUMA:
 - Fiscal constraints
 - Political perspective, i.e., conditions on spending
 - Wrt asset management: What tool to use? Need to define asset management.
 - Where is the funding to replace/adapt infrastructure?

8. Roundtable Discussion

- NAMs workshop:
 - Costs approx. \$5K to attend.
 - Gordon said no one who's attended said it wasn't good value for money
- -Fred:
 - Who/what is providing communities with the information they'll need going forward, e.g., what size culvert should they use.
 - Suggested Virginia and Jo-Ellen extract examples in the Souris project survey.
 - -Resiliency is about "software" – e.g. planning, a mindset to action preparation for climate change.
 - -? is about "hardware".
 - Water Security Agency (WSA):
 - Are extremely under-resourced
 - Thus they are incapable of keeping up – they're still dealing with 2011 events, never mind doing planning.
 - What were the outcomes from last year's Saskatchewan PRAC workshop? How can we move infrastructure planning/adaptation along?
 - At today's meeting the following from last year's meeting should have been available: minutes/list of action items/work identified.
 - This needs to be done in order to move the work forward expeditiously.
- Kim's takeaways from today:
 - All stakeholders, including SARM and WSA and all those around the table, need to be engaged.
 - We are using the limited resources that we have in doing the Souris project.

- National government/national program(s) is needed to fund infrastructure adaptation (Terry D) and industry's involvement is needed, too (Kim G.)
 - Kim G. noted that the Canada Builds program is already funding infrastructure.
- Douglas Ross:
 - In 2014 a new hydrologic map was released to help deal with extreme weather events wrt culverts.
 - Will be replacing all of the culverts over the next 25 years.
- Frank Reid:
 - < 5 applications received (NBCF). This program deals with disaster mitigation [? I think]
 - Wants help in putting together a boilerplate email to help promote NBCF/other existing funding.
 - Next NBCF intake is approx. 20 months from now, and Frank would like to get some good climate change adaptation projects.
- FCM is setting up new program on Asset Management (see Devin's ppt)
- Fred:
 - LIRA is a tool that can tell town councils where the culverts at greatest risk are.
- All today's PowerPoint presentations will be posted on PRAC's website.

9. Adjourn